In this studio, Students will be engaged in designing a hypothetical office design project, “Center for Independent Living and Culture,” located in San Francisco area (the studio site/building to be determined). The purpose of this studio is to enhance students’ studio experience in awareness of the role of architecture in cultivating diversity and independent living for people with disabilities. This studio also promotes leadership in universal design and the conviction that an inclusive design not only satisfies the intended functionality of the architecture but also strengthens its aesthetics for all users regardless of their disabilities or abilities. Through this studio, students will understand environmental equity and challenges encountered by users with disabilities. In addition to architectural interventions, this studio also challenge students to develop integrated furniture interfaces, architectural finishes and building system integrations that manifest innovated universal design concept.

With collaboration with Ed Roberts Campus (ERC), Berkeley CA that is a nonprofit organization to promote the Independent Living Movement of People with Disabilities, student will survey the ERC building, interview with users and conduct role-play disability simulations to explore accessibility issues in a built environment. Students will prepare the field survey/research prior to the field trip to Berkeley and San Francisco. Students may have opportunities to meet design professionals in San Francisco area.

Studio activities will include (but are not limited to) field trip, design research, case study, analysis, group/peer discussion, design development, specifications, lighting design and model making.

Please note that the field-trip has been scheduled from 10/1 (Thur. 2:30 pm. flight) to 10/4 (Sun,) via air travel that is supported by the Joel Yamauchi Award. The fund will also subsidize accommodation/travel cost.

1. “Creating the Spectacle!” by Sue Austin
2. Ed Roberts Campus designed by Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects